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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY

Hungary

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Pet Nitrogen Works

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DATE OF INFORMATION

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The Pet Nitrogen Works is located at Petfurdo in Transdambia between Szekesfehazvar and Veszprem. The plant was founded in the early 1930's and was owned by Nitrochemia Co Ltd. Over 50% of the shares were originally held by the Hungarian government, and control was exercised by the Royal Ministry for Industry.
2. Total employment, including management and clerical, numbers 1500. Women comprise about five percent of the total and there are no foreign personnel. Average age of the employees is from 35-40 years. Skilled personnel comprise 25% of total employment. No training facilities are required. Originally, employees' living quarters were located close to the factory, but a large new district was founded by the government at Varpalota where 30 thousand workers from Inota, Varpalota and Pet are housed. Department stores, government-owned theatres and restaurants have been established for this community. Trolley bus connections between workers' quarters and plant had not been completed by the end of 1951, however.
3. The main product of the plant is a high-nitrogen content artificial fertiliser. However, only ammonium nitrate is at present produced and is used exclusively as a basic raw material for ammunition production. The designed capacity of the plant is 150 metric tons of nitrogen (N_2) per day. In my opinion the plant will be expanded. A new nitrogen plant will be built at Borsod and probably later expanded.
4. The plant has an oil cracking installation, utilising Hungarian crudes. The designed capacity of the cracking plant is about 200 metric tons of crude per day. A by-product is petrol coke which is used in the production of paste for the aluminum industry.

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5. The development laboratories at the plant are large. In addition to research on the plant's products, work on the coal hydrogenation and nitrogen-type jet fuel problems is carried on by Professor Varga from Budapest and Professor Polinszky from Veszprem. Further, the plant is working on plastics in conjunction with the University of Veszprem. Before and during World War II industry supported the activity of the plant, when a Hungarian born, expert named Coloman Roka spent a long time in close collaboration with Professor Varga and his staff. 50X1-HUM
6. The plant was seriously damaged during World War II and was completely rebuilt from 1946 - 1950. The machinery is old and only in fair condition.
7. The plant has a spur from the Budapest - Szekesfeharvar - Veszprem railroad.
8. The plant has end-product storage capacity of six-months production. Material handling is mechanized.
9. The plant receives coal from the Vargalota coal mines by rail. Crude petroleum is received from the Lovasi field, formerly owned by the Socony-Vacuum Co.
10. The plant operated a small (12,000 kw) thermal power plant until 1951 when it was connected to the new Ajka-Budapest transmission line.
11. The plant has its own wells and water purification equipment. A new 30 km channel will soon supply the new plants in this district with water from Lake Balaton, however.
12. The usual process, air liquification, is used for obtaining the nitrogen. Hydrogen is not used or made at the plant.
13. The process for making ammonia is the usual, a mixture from coal and nitrogen. This means coal is used to make water-gas and additional nitrogen is added from the air liquification. The resulting mixture, known as synthesis gas, is then passed over catalysts to produce the ammonia (NH_3).
14. Ammonium nitrate is produced in the plant.
15. Amine jet fuels will be produced at this plant and also later in Borsod.

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